
REMARKS

1. General remarks

Applicant has rewritten claim 28. Applicant further developed his arguments to show that Applicant's invention (thereafter, "Kaptelinin") is patentable over US Patent application US2003/0135565 A1 to Estrada (thereafter, "**Estrada**").

2. Overcoming claim objections

Applicant has rewritten dependent claim 28 so as to overcome claim objections in the Office Action of October 21, 2008 (thereafter, "OA").

3. Overcoming claim rejections – 35 USC § 102

OA rejects claims 1-34 as being anticipated by Estrada. Applicant thoroughly inspected Examiner's arguments and respectfully disagrees with them. His counterarguments are provided below.

3.1. As per claim 1.

This section presents Kaptelinin's independent claim 1 and includes comments, in *bold italics*, to point to some key differences between Kaptelinin and Estrada. The comments are then summarised and discussed.

Claim 1 of the present invention reads as follows:

A method providing low-overhead integrated support for project information management for a user of a computer system, comprising the method steps of:
(Kaptelinin teaches support for a user of a computer system. Kaptelinin discloses a single-user method/apparatus, not a method/apparatus for a plurality of users. Estrada, on the contrary, teaches a collaborative workspace supporting activities between two or more individuals – e.g., Estrada: Abstract, lines 1-2, claim 1, claim 10, [0005])

creating a memory storage containing individual descriptions of each project listed in a group of projects of a user, each individual description comprising one or more properties, said properties selected from a group consisting of at least: a name, deadline, color, icon, status, importance, and urgency; said memory storage also

containing descriptions of information objects related to each project listed in said group of projects; said information objects selected from a group consisting of at least: computer files and folders, computer applications, electronic documents and their parts, web pages, computer network addresses, electronic messages, computer network transmissions, computer network connections, computer device descriptions, computer preferences and settings, user identities, user profiles and accounts, computer system-generated reports and collections, user interface components, virtual reality objects, electronic images, computer models, and personal information management system entries;

selecting, through a user-performed action, one project of said group of user's projects as an active project;

(It is inherently included that, according to Kaptelinin, "only one" project at a time can be the active project. Estrada, on the contrary, does not teach that one project is selected as active. OA's references to Estrada: [0118]) and Fig 24 do not show that "only one" project can be selected as active. The user may view a project folder in one email client window (Estrada: Fig. 3), view a subfolder or utility, such as "Files" (Fig. 4A) or "Calendar" (Fig. 5) in another window, and send a message to another project in a "New Message" window (Fig. 24). Estrada does not teach anything about "active" projects. And nothing in Estrada's teaching explicitly states or implicitly implies that "only one" project can be selected by the user)

detecting, through a first detecting means, an event generated by one of at least one computer application and at least one operating system when a user-action is carried out by the user with at least one information object, the user-action selected from a list consisting of at least: creating, deleting, activating, inactivating, selecting, deselecting, opening, closing, viewing, sending, downloading, uploading, accessing over network, sharing, archiving, printing out, playing, pausing, saving, copying, moving, modifying, or editing said at least one information object;

detecting, through a second detecting means, a project, which is active at the time when said event is generated;

(Unfortunately, this section of claim 1 has not been considered in the OA. However, it is a crucial part of Kaptelinin's subject matter. And it is clear that this subject matter is not anticipated by Estrada. Estrada does NOT TEACH ANYTHING about detecting the project, which is active at the TIME of a system event caused by a user-action)

detecting, through a third detecting means, whether at least one of the information objects described in said event is contained in a list of information objects related to said active project:

(Kaptelinin teaches third detecting means applied to the "active project", that is, the project active at the time of the event. As mentioned, Estrada does not teach detecting a project active at the time of an event generated by a user-action. In particular, in [0118]) and [0169], referred to by the OA, Estrada teaches, respectively, sending a message to a pre-defined address and embedded sender identifier, which is a different teaching)

and if said at least one information object described in said event is not contained in said list of information objects related to said active project, then adding a description of said at least one information object to said list of information objects related to said active project;

(Kaptelinin teaches linking new information objects to the "active project", that is, the project active at the time of the event. As mentioned, Estrada does not teach detecting a project active at the time of an event generated by a user-action. In particular, in [0118]) Estrada teaches, respectively, sending a message to a pre-defined address and, consequently, linking an attachment file to the predefined project, NOT the project active at the time the email message is received)

viewing and editing lists of project-related information objects;

opening an information object from a list of project-related information objects;

whereby an organization and accumulation of information objects related to individual projects of the user is accomplished in the computer system, thus enabling the user to directly access project-related information objects when work on a project is resumed after an intermission.

(Kaptelinin explicitly aims to help a single user—“the user” -- resume project work after an intermission. Estrada does not say anything about that. Fig. 26, referred to in OA, illustrates a different purpose: avoiding conflicts between different versions of a document)

Main points, differentiating Kaptelinin's claim 1 from Estrada can be summarised as follows.

A. Kaptelinin teaches that *only one* user-selected project can be active at a time. Estrada does not do that, neither explicitly or implicitly.

Estrada does not do that explicitly: nowhere does Estrada say that.

Estrada does not do that implicitly. In fact, his teaching suggests otherwise. For instance, nothing in Estrada's teaching prevents the user from sending an email to two different project email addresses at the same time, say “Xcorp Plan” and “Ycorp Plan” (cf. Fig. 24). Estrada does not exclude the possibility to send or receive messages simultaneously related to two different projects, which is incompatible with the notion of only one project being active at a time.

B. Kaptelinin teaches linking an information object to the project, *which is active at the time when the information resource is being used by the user.*

Estrada does not do that.

As mentioned, Estrada does not teach that only one project can be active at a time (which undermines the very possibility of detecting **the** project, which is active at a certain time).

In addition, according to Estrada, linking an information object to a project is done **directly**, by specifically assigning an information object to a project, through selecting either a project folder or project's email address. (When the linking is done by one user, it is automatically replicated in other users' workspaces.) It is obvious that when the user explicitly assigns a resource to a project, the user directly supplies all necessary information about the destination project, and there is no need to **detect** “what project is active at the time of the event”.

C. In general, Kaptelinin teaches a plurality of detection means, which collaboratively enable linking information objects to currently active projects without specifically assigning each information object to a certain project. Estrada does not do that.

For Kaptelinin a user can, for instance, simply open a document, and the document will be linked to the currently active project through:

- first, detecting that the user carries out a user-action with an information object
- second, detecting which project is active at the time of the user-action
- linking the detected information object to the detected project (while ensuring, through a third detecting means, that the objects has not been added to the project several times).

For Estrada, each resource should be initially specifically assigned to a project. The linking is automatically replicated in other users' workspaces. For Estrada, simply doing something with an information object, without assigning it to a specific project (such as simply opening a document) would not link the resource to any project.

One aspect of Estrada's teaching seems to be understood by OA as similar to Kaptelinin. According to Estrada, when a user receives an email message addressed to a project and containing an attachment file, the file is automatically added to a project folder, when the user downloads email messages, without specifically assigning the file to the project (e.g., Estrada: [0118]). However, the similarity of this Estrada's teaching to Kaptelinin is only superficial. In fact, the Estrada's teaching is very different from Kaptelinin:

-- When Estrada's user receives an attachment file, this file **has been already specifically assigned** to the project by another user. Therefore, Estrada's, as opposed to Kaptelinin, teaches an **automatic replication** of a previous explicit linking, rather than **automatic linking** of previously unlinked resources.

-- In addition, while for Kaptelinin the project, which is active at the time of the event, is critically important, for Estrada's "file receiving" teaching it **does not matter at all**. Irrespective of what the user is doing at the time of the event (i.e., the time of

receiving/ downloading an email), the attachment files will always be placed to the **project indicated by the sender.**

D. Kaptelinin's teaching provides advantages to a single user, even if there is no collaboration between the user and other users. By contrast, Estrada only teaches collaborative workspaces supporting activities between two or more individuals.

Kaptelinin teaches supporting a user working individually. Estrada, on contrary, aims to support several people engaged in collaboration: when one person adds a resource to a collaborative project, other persons do not have to make an effort do the same – they get the resource in the right project folder substantially “for free”. On the other hand, Estrada does not seem to provide tangible benefits to a person working individually.

Some of the key differences between Kaptelinin and Estrada are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Kaptelinin vs. Estrada

	Kaptelinin	Estrada
Only one project can be active at a time	+	- / Does not matter
A resource is linked to the project, which is active at the time when the resource is used	+	-
Some user must explicitly link a specific resource to a specific project by placing it in the project folder or sending it to project's email address	-	+
Provides benefits for a single user	+	-
Changes in a user's workspace are replicated in other users' workspaces	-	+

Brief conclusion regarding Claim 1

Kaptelinin's claim 1 is not anticipated by Estrada. Both Kaptelinin and Estrada talk about projects, resources, and activity monitoring. However, these are two different teachings.

Kaptelinin teaches (a) detecting the project P, which is active at the time when an information resource IO is used, and (b) automatically linking IO to P. The user does not need to link IO to P explicitly, which saves the user time and effort. The teaching is beneficial for an individually working user, who is not necessarily collaborating with other users.

Estrada, on the contrary, requires that an IO be explicitly linked to a P by **some** user, who collaborates with other users. The linking is automatically replicated in other users' workspaces, which saves *other* users time and effort. Estrada clearly teaches only collaborative workspaces; the teaching does not provide tangible benefits to an individually working user.

Therefore, Kaptelinin's claim 1 is not anticipated by Estrada. Kaptelinin and Estrada are two structurally and functionally different teachings. They have different advantages, propose different solutions, and disclose different subject matter.

3.2. As per claims 2-27.

The claims incorporate all the subject matter of claim 1 and add additional subject matter, which makes them novel and patentable over prior art.

ADDITIONALLY:

As per claim 2: Estrada's Inbox (e.g., Fig. 22-23) and other lists of information objects *do not show the projects, which are active at the time of the events* (that is, the time of receiving the messages). Instead, the projects displayed are the ones, which are assigned by senders (that is, before the information objects were received).

As per claim 16: Estrada's Fig 2-14 show a dialog box or email application windows, not documents. They cannot be named, saved, re-opened, etc.

As per claims 7 and 26: The labels shown by Estrada do not constitute a clear ranking scale. It is not certain, for instance, whether "My thoughts" have a higher priority than "A few adjustments".

As per claim 18: Applicant respectfully submits that Estrada's "out-of-sync" does not mean "project becomes inactive" (cf. OA, p. 14, lines 18-19). It means that some changes in the collaborative workspace have not been adequately replicated in some participants' workspaces. Estrada's auto-updating changes project spaces of such participants by automatically receiving and adding recent resources, which may mean that a project space for such a participant is NOT the same as before a break. Estrada is

PAGE 21/21 * RCVD AT 1/21/2009 3:56:00 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFRRF-4/10 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID: * DURATION (mm-ss):25-30

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